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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 9 MARCH 5, 2007

U.S. forces intensify attacks on Iraqi militias

Congress backs aims of war, while it postures as 'opposing' escalation

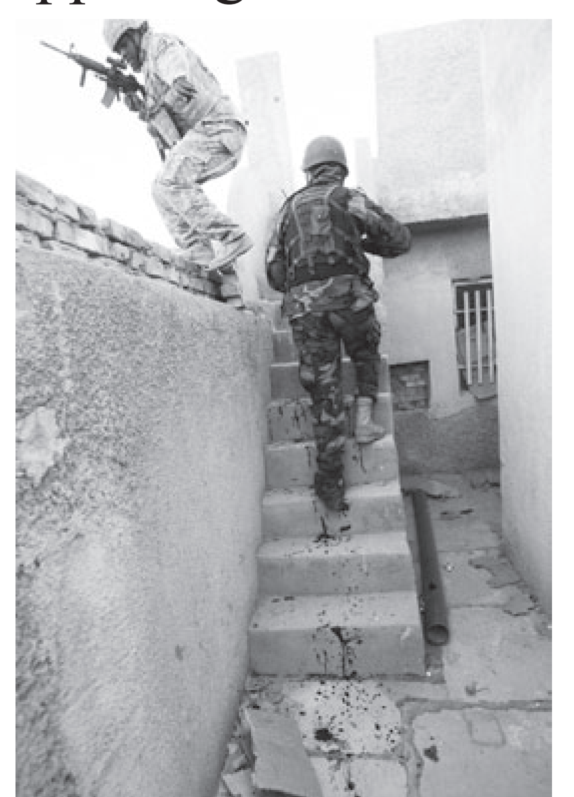
BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, February 20—U.S. and Iraqi government troops reportedly bombarded the office of Muqtada al-Sadr, a Shiite cleric who heads a militia opposed to the establishment of a pro-U.S. regime in Baghdad. The attack was part of stepped-up operations across the country, as U.S. troops increasingly clash with armed groups loyal to competing factions of the Iraqi capitalist class vying for a bigger share of power.

According to the Pentagon, about 1,000 soldiers from the Army's Third Infantry Division will be deployed ahead of schedule as part of the White House plan to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq by 21,500.

Meanwhile the charade of "opposition" to the escalation of the war, which U.S. president George Bush announced January 10, goes on in Congress. On February 16, the House of Representatives

Continued on page 7



Getty Images/Chris Hondros

U.S. Army troops from 1st Cavalry Division and Iraqi government soldiers pursue member of Mahdi militia they have shot in Gazaliyah neighborhood of Baghdad on February 8.

U.S. president claims Tehran is arming militias in Iraq

European Union tightens sanctions against Iran

BY MA'MUD SHIRVANI

February 18—In a February 14 White House press conference, U.S. president George Bush accused the government of Iran of arming Shiite militias in Iraq with powerful explosives, which supposedly have been responsible for killing at least 170 U.S. soldiers. In a related move two days earlier, officials of the European Union helped tighten the U.S.-led squeeze on Iran by deciding to widen economic sanctions against the country.

For the first time Bush publicly endorsed the accusations against Tehran, which until then had been leveled by anonymous U.S. military officials. "I can say with certainty that the Quds Force, a part of the Iranian government, has provided these sophisticated I.E.D.'s [improvised explosive devices] that have harmed our troops," the U.S. president asserted.

In a February 11 news briefing in Baghdad, U.S. military officials, who refused to reveal their names, claimed that "the highest levels of the Iranian government" had authorized smuggling such weapons into Iraq to be used

Continued on page 3

'First and Second Declarations of Havana' presented at Cuba's book fair

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND MAURA DELUCA

HAVANA—*The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, Pathfinder's newest book, was launched here February 13 at the Havana International Book Fair.

The two declarations were each adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people on Sept. 2, 1960, and Feb. 4, 1962. Each was a response to U.S.-engineered moves by the Organization of American States (OAS) to isolate and attempt to destroy the advancing Cuban Revolution.

The new title, published in both English and Spanish editions, was one of dozens of books presented during the 10-day festival, which also included poetry readings, concerts, children's programs, film showings, dance, and other performances.

The annual book fair, the largest cultural event held in Cuba, drew more than 600,000 people this year, its organizers reported. It is now traveling to 39 other cities across the island and concludes March 11 in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba.

The First and Second Declarations of Havana was presented by a panel of speakers that featured José Ramón

Continued on page 6

Meat packers seek and get solidarity to resist impact of immigration raids

BY HELEN MEYERS

DES MOINES, Iowa—Thousands of workers and their relatives affected by large-scale immigration raids at six Swift meatpacking plants across the United States are seeking and getting solidarity from fellow workers, trade unions, churches, and others to resist the impact of the government attack.

Hundreds of the nearly 1,300 meat packers arrested December 12 here, and in Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, and Utah, remain imprisoned. The government has indicted 274 of these workers on state or federal criminal charges, including "identity theft." Nearly 600 have been deported. Some 120 were released because of hardships, such as illnesses or pregnancies, but have to report to a judge for a court hearing.

In Marshalltown, Iowa, supporters of the affected workers have raised $85,000 to aid their families in paying legal bills, rent, utilities, and food as the workers or their relatives try to find new jobs and to be reunited with their loved ones.

A front-page article in the February 12 *Des Moines Register* was headlined, "If fiancée is deported, I'll go too, Iowan says." It told the story of Dulce Hernández Vazquez, a cafeteria worker arrested at the Swift plant in Marshalltown. After her arrest, Hernández, who has two children, was moved from Iowa to Georgia and is now in jail in Gadsden, Alabama. Her fiancé, Robert Braun, is an animal health technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the Marshalltown plant. He and immigration attorney Ta-Yu

Continued on page 4

'Militant' circulation campaign: One week, 104 subscriptions to go!

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

February 21—With one week to go, the *Militant*'s five-week campaign to increase its long-term readership is picking up momentum. Supporters of the paper had their best week yet, bringing in 115 renewals or new long-term subscriptions.

That leaves 104 to go to make the international goal of 500.

"On Saturday, seven workers in the Livingston area, where poultry workers waged a fight for union recognition and a contract, renewed," reported Gerardo Sánchez from San Francisco. "A couple—one who had been a silver miner in Mexico and the other currently working in a fruit-packing plant—renewed

Continued on page 4

N.Y.: Protesters demand justice for Sean Bell



Militant/Dan Fein

NEW YORK, February 19—"People need to come out here and march," said Joseph Guzman at a protest here today demanding justice for Sean Bell. Guzman was shot 16 times November 25 in a hail of 50 police bullets that killed Bell and seriously wounded Trent Benefield. "It's time to come together and make sure this never happens again," Guzman said.

More than 100 people marched from the 103rd Police Precinct in Jamaica, Queens, to a local church to mark the end of a 50-day vigil protesting Bell's death (above). Some 300 people gathered at the church, where Bell's mother thanked those who had brought solidarity to the site. A monthly candlelight ceremony will begin outside of the 103rd Precinct February 23.

—WILLIE COTTON

Also Inside:

U.S. gov't to pay for Agent Orange poisoning

BY ROSS HOGAN

February 16—The U.S. government has agreed to pay $400,000 toward a $1 million study into the removal of dioxin residues at the former U.S. air base in Da Nang, Vietnam, reported BBC News on February 9. This is the first time Washington has agreed to any such funding.

Dioxin is an ingredient used in the toxic herbicide Agent Orange. The defoliant is named Agent Orange because it was stored in drums marked with an orange band during the Vietnam War. It contains TCDD, the most poisonous dioxin. It has been known to cause cancer and other diseases, including deformities in children of those exposed to the chemical.

The Pentagon used an estimated 70 million liters of toxic chemicals like Agent Orange during its war against Vietnam in the 1960s and early '70s, in order to defoliate jungles to aid the U.S. military in fighting the Vietnamese resistance. Hanoi estimates that 4 million people have been affected by the toxin.

Washington has claimed that there is little proof of the actual effects of Agent Orange. However, following a 1984 lawsuit against U.S. chemical companies, Vietnam veterans in the United States who developed symptoms of dioxin poisoning won the right to $180 million in compensation.

A separate lawsuit, brought against U.S. chemical companies in 2005 on behalf of Agent Orange victims in Vietnam was rejected by a federal court, on the basis that the case did not have "legal grounds." An appeal of that verdict is pending in a U.S. Court of Appeals.

During its decade-long war against Vietnam and neighboring countries in Indochina, Washington unleashed more bombs than had been dropped in all previous wars, including 100,000 tons of napalm. Nearly 60,000 U.S. troops died in combat, while millions of inhabitants of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia were killed.

The damage inflicted on the Vietnamese people has been long lasting. It includes the effects of Agent Orange. This can be seen at the Friendship Village outside of Hanoi, where not only veterans of the war but their children and the offspring of their children are treated today with visible symptoms of deformations and diseases caused by the defoliant. (For more details see "Friendship Village in Vietnam treats Agent Orange victims," an eyewitness report in the April 4, 2005, *Militant*.)



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Veterans of National Liberation Front of Vietnam, being treated in 2005 at Friendship Village near Hanoi for exposure to Agent Orange sprayed by U.S. military.

Portuguese voters approve legalizing abortion

BY EMILY ROSE

A majority of people voted in a February 11 referendum to legalize abortion in Portugal. More than 59 percent voted in favor and nearly 41 percent against.

The referendum result is not legally binding. At least half the 8.8 million registered voters must cast a ballot in order for that to be the case, while only 44 percent did so. However, Portugal's prime minister, José Sócrates, of the Socialist Party, said he will now present a law in parliament to decriminalize abortion. "The people spoke with a clear voice," he said. "The law now will be discussed and approved in Parliament." The proposed bill would make abortion legal until the 10th week of pregnancy.

In 1998, prochoice groups in Portugal placed on the ballot a similar referendum, which was narrowly defeated. That was the first attempt to modify a 1984 law that placed severe restrictions on access to abortion.

The law currently in effect in Portugal allows abortion until the 12th week of pregnancy in cases of mental and physical risk to the woman, until 16 weeks in cases of rape, until 24 weeks if the fetus is deformed, and at any time if the woman's life is in danger. It imposes prison sentences of up to three years for a woman who undergoes an illegal abortion and up to eight years for the person performing it. Portugal is the only European Union (EU) member state that has put a woman on trial for undergoing an abortion.

In recent years about 20 such trials of women, doctors, and others have taken place. In 2002, a nurse was sentenced to eight-and-a-half years in prison for performing abortions in her home. She was tried with 43 others charged with similar violations. A case in 2005 of three women accused of obtaining an abortion sparked a protest by more than 100 people. The protesters held signs with the names of women put on trial for such "crimes," and placards calling for an end to these trials, which are often conducted in makeshift courthouses.

Portugal's Planned Parenthood Association estimates that 20,000–40,000 back-alley abortions take place annually in the country. Thousands more go abroad to terminate unwanted pregnancies. Advocates of a woman's right to choose abortion say about 10,000 women are hospitalized every year with complications arising from botched, illegal abortions.

"The 'Yes' won," said Maria José Alves, a doctor who heads one of the prochoice groups. "This result is an unequivocal sign for parliament to legislate according to the will of the Portuguese." Alves was referring to the campaign launched by the Portuguese Family Planning Association in 1998 to advocate decriminalizing abortion and other improvements in reproductive health.

Antiabortion laws remain in effect in a handful of EU member states, including Ireland, Malta, and Poland.

National Black Land Loss Summit held in N. Carolina

BY SAM MANUEL

WHITAKERS, North Carolina—The 2007 farm bill and the plight of African American farmers was the focus of the Ninth National Black Land Loss Summit held here February 16–18. Most of the 30 people who attended included organizers of nonprofit groups assisting farmers, alternative and organic farm organizations, and former officials of the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). A handful of farmers also took part.

Lloyd Wright, a former USDA civil rights director, presented several provisions the group proposes be added to the 2007 farm bill. These include a moratorium on foreclosures on Black-owned farms; making loans available for Blacks newly entering or reentering farming; funding for access to energy, including for fuel, electricity, and refrigeration; and increasing Black farmers' access to markets previously denied to them.

Carrie Hawkins of Macon, North Carolina, came to the meeting because she is taking over the family farm raising hogs and goats. "We will keep fighting to keep our farm," Hawkins told the *Militant*. The USDA initiated foreclosure proceedings against her family in the early 1980s, she said. "My father was part of the Pigford case, which helped

Continued on page 3

The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 9

Closing news date: February 21, 2007

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Maura DeLuca, Martín Koppel, Olympia Newton, Paul Pederson, Jacob Perasso, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one-year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Gov't of Canada to double military budget

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—Speaking to reporters February 16, Canada's prime minister, Stephen Harper, warned that more Canadian troops will be injured and killed in the expected spring offensive of the Taliban forces in Afghanistan. "Our soldiers, men and women who go over there, know full well when they go over there that not all of them will return," he said.

Ottawa's 2,500 soldiers are part of the NATO command and are stationed in Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan, where intense fighting has been taking place. Forty-four Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in the country since 2002.

The backdrop to Harper's pledge—on behalf of Canada's capitalist rulers—to deepen Ottawa's military intervention in Afghanistan is a recently leaked report produced for National Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor that projects a massive increase in the military budget.

The undated nine-page document, "Canada First Defence Strategy—Funding Options," was leaked to Liberal senator Colin Kenny, who provided it to *Defense News*, a U.S. Pentagon publication. *Defense News* published an article based on the report in its February 5 issue. The current defense budget is Can$15.1 billion (Can$1=US 86 cents). According to the document, leaders of Canadian Forces are calling for more than doubling the budget to Can$36.6 billion by 2025.

Defense News reports that the government has already announced "the purchase of Boeing Chinook helicopters and C-17 strategic-lift aircraft, Lockheed Martin C-130J aircraft, new trucks for the Army, and a new fleet of supply ships for the Navy."

The effort of Canada's rulers to transform their army into an effective and mobile combat force was signaled in February 2005 with the appointment by the previous Liberal government of Gen. Richard Hillier to Chief of Defence Staff. Hillier, who served in Afghanistan and Yugoslavia, is noted for his many speeches in support of the Afghanistan military operation and the transformation of the armed forces.

The following May, the Liberal government released a revamped military policy titled, "Setting the Course for the Future: Canada's New Defence Policy." The document announced an increase in the military budget, giving Ottawa "the means to strengthen our capacity to defend Canada and Canadians, protect our interests, as well as play a more significant leadership role in the world."

Discussion on the military buildup broke out publicly February 15 at the annual meeting of the Conference of Defence Associations.

In a speech to the meeting, General Hillier attacked the previous Liberal government for underfunding the Canadian military during what he called "a decade of darkness."

"Over the past one to two years we have begun to fully realize the immense, the negative impact of the defense expenditure reductions in 1994," Hillier said.

His comments received a sharp rebuke from Denis Coderre, the Liberal defense critic in the party's shadow cabinet, who said they were inappropriate. "I think it's highly political. . . . To get involved in politics, there is one way. You should run [as a candidate for Parliament]."

Other opponents of the government backed Hillier. "The general is right to say the Liberals did not support our troops and their families with adequate equipment to keep them safe, or with adequate salaries or even remuneration for families who were bereaved," said New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton.

Responding to reporters' questions about Hillier's speech, Defence Minister O'Connor stated that the Conservative government intends "to rebuild the armed forces come hell or high water."

Florida campuses display Pathfinder books during Black History Month



Militant/Peter Seidman

MIAMI, February 18—The Florida International University south campus bookstore here has displayed several Pathfinder books, including *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* and *Fighting Racism in World War II* (above), during Black History Month. Other schools in the state with similar displays include Florida Southern College and the University of Central Florida.

—DEBORAH LIATOS

Farm conference

Continued from page 2

us to keep the farm."

Hawkins was referring to the class action suit *Pigford v. Glickman*. Farmers filed this legal action Aug. 28, 1997, charging the USDA with racist discrimination in loans and other services between 1981 and 1996. On April 14, 1999, a federal court issued a consent decree settling the case, in which the government admitted to such practices. Those that could provide minimal proof of bias would receive a $50,000 tax-exempt payment, debt relief, and preference for future loans. Of the 94,000 farmers filing such claims, some 86 percent have been denied compensation, mostly for filing claims after stringent deadlines, which Washington imposed without adequate notice.

Robert Jones's father lost most of the family's 100-acre farm due to debts. "We have 35 acres left of which I am only able to farm on two acres at present," Jones said. He said the proposal to assist those returning to farming is important.

Conference organizer Gary Grant, who is also the president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association (BFAA), announced that BFAA and other farm groups are also planning a Town Hall rally in Washington, D.C., on August 29, the 10th anniversary of the filing of *Pigford v. Glickman*.

Bush claims Tehran is arming militias in Iraq

Continued from front page

against the U.S. forces. The next day, however, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, contradicted some of these assertions. He told reporters that he could not endorse the claim that the Iranian government, "per se, for sure," is complicit. Many commentators in the big-business media and some capitalist politicians voiced similar skepticism.

It appears that Washington had not quite concocted its story until the February 14 press conference. There, Bush refused to answer reporters' questions about the inconsistencies in the presentation of "evidence" by the military brass against Iran. But he kept on hammering at the point. "I'd like to repeat," Bush said, "I do not know whether or not the Quds Force was ordered from the top echelons of the government. But my point is, what's worse, them ordering it and it happening, or them not ordering it and it's happening?"

Bush continued, "What matters is, is that we're responding." If U.S. forces found either networks or individuals "who are moving these devices into Iraq, we will deal with them," he stated.

Bush kept on referring to the "Quds Force" routinely as an established fact. But an article in the February 17 *New York Times* headlined "Iranian Force, Focus of U.S., Still a Mystery," made this point: "Some specialists even question whether the Quds Force exists as a formal unit clearly delineated from the rest of the Revolutionary Guard" of Iran's armed forces.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Mohammed Ali Hosseini, dismissed Washington's accusations. "The United States has a long history in fabricating evidence," he said.

Meanwhile, European Union officials announced that the EU will tighten its economic squeeze on Iran, as decided by the United Nations Security Council. A resolution adopted by this body December 23 imposed sanctions on Iran for refusing to abandon its efforts to develop nuclear energy. According to a draft resolution EU officials released to the press February 12, the EU would widen a ban on financial transactions with Tehran and the export of materials and technology that could be used in Iran for the development of nuclear arms.

"This is a very positive initiative because it takes the European Union beyond where they were until recently," said Nicholas Burns, the U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs.

The Iranian government insists it has no intention of developing atomic weapons. Tehran says it is developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, to meet the country's needs and to lessen its dependency on diminishing fossil fuels.

In an attempt to minimize the impact of U.S.-led economic sanctions, the Iranian government in mid-December ordered its central bank to replace the U.S. dollar with the euro for all foreign transactions.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Presentation of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution.* Speakers include: Lok Siu, associate professor of Anthropology and Asian/Pacific/American Studies at New York University; Kathleen Lopez, assistant professor of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies at Lehman College; and Mary-Alice Waters, who interviewed the three generals, president of Pathfinder Press. Thurs., March 8, 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by Museum of Chinese in the Americas, China House, and LUCHA. *Asian/Pacific/American Institute, New York University, 41–51 East 11th Street, 7th Floor Gallery. Please RSVP. (212) 992-9653; www.apa.nyu.edu*

Shooting a Revolution. The Photographs of Lee Lockwood. Cuba: The Early Years. Exhibit March 8 – April 7. Press Reception: Wed. March 7, 3:00 p.m. Reception: Thurs., March 8, 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Center for Cuban Studies. *Cuban Art Space Gallery, 124 West 23rd Street. Tel.: (212) 242-0559. For gallery hours visit www.cubanartspace.net*

OHIO

Cincinnati

From Long Kesh to the Good Friday Agreement: Personal Reflections by Two Former Republican P.O.W.'s. Speakers: Terry Kirby and Bobby Lavery. Sat., March. 3, 7:00 p.m. Donation $10. *Our Lady of Knock AOH Hall, 8070-1 Reading Road.*

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Workers' Stake in the Fight Against Anti-Immigrant Attacks. Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., March 2. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *3926 Mission. Tel. (415) 584-2135.*

FLORIDA

Miami

Free the Cuban Five. Sat., March 3. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *8365 NE 2nd Ave., Suite 206. Tel. (305) 756-4436.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Oppose U.S. Intervention in the Philippines. Speakers: Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party; representative of Bayan. Fri., March 2. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *307 W. 36th St., 10th Floor (use north set of elevators) Tel. (212) 629-6649.*

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

U.S. Imperialism Out of Iraq and Afghanistan Now. Hands Off Iran. Speaker: Ryan Scott, Young Socialists. Fri., March 2, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5. *5907 Penn Ave., Room 225. Tel. (412) 365-1090.*

Stops raids, deportations! Legalize all immigrants now!

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; Tel: (212) 629-6649; E-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY GABRIELA MOREANO

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—The Young Socialists are part of the working-class response to recent large-scale factory raids by the U.S. immigration police.

On December 12, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents raided Swift meatpacking plants in six U.S. states. It was the largest-ever immigration sweep at a single company. Nearly 1,300 workers were arrested. Hundreds of them were subsequently deported and 220 were charged with "identity theft."

In a similar incident, ICE agents arrested 21 workers on January 24 at the Smithfield Foods plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, for alleged immigration violations. These arrests came just two months after a walkout of 1,000 meat packers at the Tar Heel plant to protest the firing of 75 fellow workers for "false papers." The strike forced the company to rehire the 75. Workers were then given two months to fix their immigration status, a period now expiring. The company is now threatening to fire more than 500 employees. Workers at the Tar Heel plant have been involved in efforts over the last decade to organize into the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

In response to these raids over the past two months, Young Socialists have been part of teams to meatpacking regions in Minnesota, Iowa, and North Carolina, selling the *Militant* at plant gates and in nearby communities, and discussing politics with workers and youth. Many of the workers we've met have agreed on the need to organize and fight against the bosses' attacks. More than 1,000 workers bought copies of the *Militant* and about 100 subscribed in these visits.

The recent raids come at a time when the working class in this country has been strengthened, which was registered in the mass proletarian actions last spring demanding, "Legalization Now!"

On May Day last year, 2 million workers walked off the job and took to the streets to say, "We are workers, not criminals!" It was the first nationwide general strike in the history of the United States, presenting political demands on the government. The recent raids are an attempt by the ruling class to weaken the impact of those mobilizations, to intimidate immigrant and other workers from fighting for their rights.

The employers depend on undocumented workers as a cheap source of exploitable labor. They make sure immigrants keep flowing across the border, often through coyote operations the bosses organize. At the same time they seek to keep immigrants in a second-class status in order to make a greater profit through lowering wages and speeding up production for all. Current immigration laws are designed to allow the capitalists to divide the working class and keep millions deprived of basic rights.

Last year's mass mobilizations and the response by workers to the recent raids have undercut attempts by the employers and the government to divide workers by nationality and language. Workers are refusing to be cowed, finding ways to fight, and looking to the unions and other workers for help.

The Young Socialists support the struggles of all workers to organize a union at their workplace and use it to resist the bosses' attacks. Unions are the only tools workers have to defend themselves and to fight for better living conditions.

We also explain that the fight for immigrant rights is in the interest of all workers, as the attacks on immigrants are attacks on the working class as a whole. The Young Socialists encourages students, young workers, and others to join us in demanding: "No to raids and deportations!" "Legalize all the undocumented now!"

Ross Hogan contributed to this article.

Court declares 'not guilty' cops who killed youth in 2002 in Downey, California



Militant

DOWNEY, California—A court here returned a verdict of "not guilty" January 18 in the death of Gonzalo Martínez at the hands of police in this Los Angeles suburb. The unarmed youth was machine-gunned down five years ago. His parents, Norma and Norberto Martínez, have organized demonstrations to protest his killing and joined with others to take action against police brutality. About 30 people participated in a February 15 vigil marking the anniversary of his killing. Above, Norma Martínez (left) holds a banner with Gonzalo's photo during a February 2004 protest in Downey. "In spite of the disappointment over the outcome of the suit, we plan to continue to fight what the police are doing," she said.

—WENDY LYONS

'Militant' Subscription Renewal Drive
Jan. 20 – Feb. 25 ♦ Week 4 of 5

Country	Quota	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND	**20**	**18**	**90%**
UK			
London	**20**	**19**	**95%**
Edinburgh	8	6	75%
UK Total	**28**	**25**	**89%**
AUSTRALIA	**15**	**12**	**80%**
CANADA	25	19	76%
U.S.			
Boston	**20**	**19**	**95%**
Washington, DC	**25**	**22**	**88%**
Newark, NJ	**25**	**21**	**84%**
Chicago	**20**	**16**	**80%**
Des Moines, IA	**35**	**28**	**80%**
New York	50	39	78%
Twin Cities, MN	27	21	78%
Los Angeles	30	22	73%
Miami	36	26	72%
Houston	20	14	70%
Seattle	20	14	70%
San Francisco*	30	20	67%
Tampa, FL	3	2	67%
Albany, NY	5	3	60%
Philadelphia	30	18	60%
Atlanta	17	9	53%
Birmingham, AL	23	12	52%
Pittsburgh	15	6	40%
San Diego	5	2	40%
U.S. Total	436	314	72%
SWEDEN	13	7	54%
ICELAND	4	1	25%
Int'l totals	541	396	79%
Should be	**500**	**400**	**80%**

*raised goal

'Militant' subs

Continued from front page

their subscription and bought a copy of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana.* They welcomed us into their home and invited us to lunch the next time we visit."

The book this worker bought is offered for half price, only $5, along with a *Militant* subscription renewal or new long-term sub. Other such specials include *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution,* also for $5; *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism,* for $1; and the last two issues of the magazine *New International* for $25 together.

With 12 renewals over the weekend, supporters of the paper in San Francisco made their initial quota of 20, and decided to increase it by 10 for the remaining week of the drive.

Supporters of the paper in New York picked up another 11 subscriptions this week. At a house meeting in Harlem, a medical supply plant worker renewed her subscription for one year, bought *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution.* She said she shows the paper around at work, and many of her coworkers ask her for it every week.

Follow this worker's example. Renew your subscription, and convince others to sign up too.

Workers respond to immigration raids

Continued from front page

Yang are fighting to have Hernández returned to Iowa and released until her court hearing.

Braun said he has lost "all confidence in the government," adding that he is angry at his fiancée's treatment. "There's no impartialness to all this," he said. "It's amazing how my view of the justice system has changed."

In Cactus, Texas, there has been an outpouring of support from throughout the region for the arrested immigrants, according to an article in the February 11 *Dallas Morning News*. Carol Valdez, an administrator at a local church organizing solidarity donations, said that contributions have come from Oklahoma, Kansas, and across Texas. Many of the workers at the Cactus plant are originally from Quichi, Guatemala, and Chihuahua, Mexico.

Some 3,050 workers were employed at the Cactus plant prior to December 12, of whom 292 were arrested and many were immediately deported. Other workers have reportedly left Cactus to seek work elsewhere in the region.

Imelda Maldonado has been at the plant for more than 25 years and is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 540. She told the *Dallas Morning News* that production at the Cactus plant has slowed down. The company is hiring more people, she said, but has not replaced all those who were arrested or left. Maldonado said Swift has hired a number of Sudanese workers, who commute daily from Amarillo, Texas.

The February 26 issue of the *Nation* magazine ran an article on the impact of the raids in Greeley, Colorado.

Local radio announcer Elda Gamez told the *Nation* that the response to the raids by working people and others in the area continues to build. "All this stuff has made one great change," said Gamez. "That change is unity. We were hit with a very low blow, but it served us well, and we've gotten support from people we've never heard from before." An organizing center set up at one of the local churches has reportedly raised $80,000 in contributions. Child care and other services have been set up to ensure that families can remain in the area.

Some of those deported after the December raids have already returned to the United States to find new jobs and be reunited with their families. The *Nation* interviewed one worker in Greeley who had worked at Swift since 2001. He was arrested December 12, held briefly in an El Paso, Texas, jail, and then "dumped across the border into Juárez," Mexico. After visiting his hometown, the worker and seven others who had worked at Swift and had been deported returned to Greeley.

According to the *Nation*, the worker arrived at his Greeley trailer 22 days after being arrested, and was reunited with his family, which includes three children who are between one and eight years old. "I would do it again tomorrow," said the worker, whose name is withheld to avoid reprisals by the government. "And tomorrow and the next day."

ON THE PICKET LINE

Rail workers in Canada strike for a new contract

Some 2,800 rail yard workers across Canada, members of the United Transportation Union, walked off the job February 10 in their fight for a new contract. The strikers reported that 96 percent of 2,200 who voted opted to take strike action against Canadian National Railway (CN). The previous contract expired at the end of December.

"Enough is enough," striker Darwin Skelliter told the *Militant*, on the picket line at the giant MacMillan Yard north of Toronto. He said that workers are fed up with harassment and intimidation tactics by management, and are demanding a 40 minute meal break in a nine-hour shift instead of the 20 minutes they get now. The union is also demanding a 13 percent wage increase over three years and is fighting to defend current rest rules that are under attack by the bosses.

CN bosses have threatened to sue union officials, and are asking the Canada Labour Relations Board to declare the strike illegal. CN is the fifth largest rail line in North America by revenue, carrying freight across Canada and throughout the United States.

—John Steele

Minnesota: Twin Cities janitors approve new contract

MINNEAPOLIS—More than 300 members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 26 overwhelmingly voted February 10 to ratify a new contract with the Minnesota-St. Paul Service Contractors Association. The pact lowers workers' health-care costs and raises wages of full-time workers $1.20 an hour over the three-year contract. Those working part time will get $1.70 an hour.

At the ratification meeting held at the United Labor Center, a Somali woman said that this was just the beginning, since the bosses will not respect the contract and we all need to be ready to fight.

—Julian Santana

'N.Y. Divided: Slavery and the Civil War': another informative exhibit on par with part 1

BY DAN FEIN

NEW YORK—Chattel slavery was ended in New York State in 1827. Passing that law, however, did not end New York City's critical role in the system of slave labor in the South.

The New York Historical Society's popular exhibit last year, "Slavery in New York," documented the building of New York by slave labor up to 1827.

A follow-up exhibition, "New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War," covers the period from 1827 until the end of the U.S. Civil War. The current exhibit opened last November and lasts until September 3. It is every bit informative as part one.

IN REVIEW

For those who missed the first part, there are a few panels and an excellent video on the fourth floor of the Historical Society's building (170 Central Park West, at 77th Street, in Manhattan) reviewing the previous exhibit.

Cotton was King for most, if not all, of the 19th century. The cotton gin was invented in the 1790s, mechanizing the separating of seeds from the cotton. The textile industry in England had mechanized spinning and weaving, and was the most important part of English industry. The industrial revolution was further advanced in Britain than anywhere else in the world.

How did the raw cotton, planted and harvested by slave labor in the South, get to England? Through New York. Finished goods were shipped from Europe to New York, the commercial center of the United States at the time. The return ships were filled with bales of cotton. New York merchants became middlemen between the planters in the South and the cloth-making mills of Britain and France.

The exhibit shows the Counting Houses in southern Manhattan, where five-story buildings were the offices of merchants, shippers, and maritime suppliers. Two of the primary destinations of the ships loaded with cotton were Liverpool, England, and Le Havre, France.

Plantation owners often visited New York to escape the heat. They were greeted as kin by New York's commercial capitalists. They bought fancy imported goods not found in southern stores. They often brought their slaves. In New York at the time, slaves held longer than nine months were legally free. But many visiting southern whites stayed much longer, and the law was often overlooked.

A photo display and audio presentation through a telephone give the story of David Ruggles, a free Black who cofounded the Committee of Vigilance in 1835. The committee liberated visiting slaves and also tried to prevent kidnappers from capturing freed slaves off the streets of New York and taking them south to be sold.

There are a couple of displays on the pseudoscientific lectures and performances during the 1830s and '40s stressing the inherent inferiority of non-white people.

Many abolitionist books, newspapers, and pamphlets circulated during this period are also on display. Examples include the first Black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal,* and William Lloyd Garrison's *The Liberator*.

The mass-circulation newspapers were filled with racist and pro-slavery ideology and denounced the abolitionists' activity. A visual display gives numerous examples filled with racial epithets and threats.

The "Riots of 1834" display notes, "Across the North, many 'gentlemen of property and standing'—lawyers, editors, merchants —responded furiously to the abolitionist campaign. Mob violence exploded in hundreds of cities and towns, targeting antislavery societies and black Americans." In New York, on July 9, 1834, a mob attacked the homes of abolitionists and antislavery churches.

A weakness of the exhibit is the absence of information on the rise of the manufacturing capitalists in the North whose system was based on free labor. This put them at odds with the economic system in the South—plantations based on slave labor.

The use of steam power brought about the factory. More railroads made the distribution of commodities cheaper. In the decade or two before the Civil War manufacturing ceased to be an adjunct to merchant capitalism and large amounts of merchant capital were transferred into manufacturing. This put industrial capitalism in the north on a collision course with the southern slavocracy.

This was the source of a new political party, the Republicans, which represented industrial capitalists and Midwest farmers.

Up until the 1860 presidential election when Abraham Lincoln won on the Republican ticket (although he lost New York City), the slavocracy held control of the federal government through the Democratic Party.

The final section of the exhibit covers what's known as the "Draft Riots" of 1863.

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861, with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter. In January 1863, Lincoln implemented the Emancipation Proclamation and followed it with a plan to institute the military draft. The wealthy could buy their way out of the draft for $300.

The *Daily News* opposed abolishing slavery and the war effort of the North and printed articles to foster fear and prejudice, especially among the recent immigrants. The day before the four days of rioting, the *Daily News* said, "It is a strange perversion of the laws of self-preservation which would compel the white laborer to leave his family destitute and unprotected while he goes forth to free the negro, who, being free, will compete with him in labor."


Union soldier in U.S. Civil War, 1864.

The first target of the rioters, many of whom were impoverished Irish immigrants, was the draft office. Another target was the wealthy—the Brooks building was ransacked; Brooks Brothers was one of the largest clothing manufacturers. Third, and not least, Blacks were targeted, including the torching of the Colored Orphan Asylum and the lynching of Abraham Franklin, an African American whose body was cut down and dragged through the streets. More than 100 Black women, children, and men were killed in the draft riots.

I found that, whatever the limitations, part two of the exhibit, just like the first part last year, provides much needed information absent by and large from the schoolbooks I've studied and many others.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 5, 1982

Some 500 farmers, loggers, and unionists packed into the state capitol on February 15 to protest the increasing plight of Minnesota farmers. The rally was preceded by a parade of farm tractors, logging trucks, and buses from the state fairgrounds.

Carrying placards such as "Family Farmer: Endangered Species," "Tax Profits not People," and "Parity Price will Save Rural America," Minnesota farmers converged on the capitol to press for passage of two bills: a two-year moratorium on mortgage foreclosures and a minimum price bill that would guarantee 80 percent parity.

The two-year moratorium bill on farm foreclosures comes at a time when a quarter of Minnesota's 14,000 farmers who have loans with the Farmers Home Administration are now delinquent in making payments.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

March 4, 1957

The Veterans Administration has awarded James Kutcher, the legless veteran, a bronze medal for "ten years of faithful and meritorious service." The irony of it is that Kutcher is engaged in a fight to force the VA to pay him his back wages for almost eight of those ten years.

Kutcher, who lost both legs in combat in Italy, began to work for the VA in 1946. One of the first victims of the "loyalty" purge, he was fired in 1948 for open membership in the Socialist Workers Party. Then followed proceedings to evict him and his aged parents from a federal housing project and the stopping of his disability pension.

Kutcher's tireless and principled fight not only for his own rights, but against the very premise of the witch hunt, won widespread labor and liberal support.



March 5, 1932

The day's news hails the acceptance by Japanese imperialism of the armistice proposals made by the League of Nations. That this "peaceful" gesture is merely a continuation of the aggressive policy of the Tokyo statesmen along new lines, cannot be mistaken. And it is especially the Wall Street spokesmen at Washington who know this fact and bring their actions in accord with it. A Japanese acceptance of the truce can only take place under conditions favorable to the invaders. Tokyo does not conceal these intentions. It is simply putting into play a diplomatic maneuver.

One thing is certain: the conclusion of the truce, if it should get as far as that, will hardly mean the end of the Far Eastern episode, but will much rather bring it more closely within the framework of a broad struggle among the world imperialists themselves.

First, second declarations

Continued from front page

Fernández, vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers; Fernando Rojas, president of the Federation of University Students (FEU) in Havana; Mario Rodríguez, a member of the national leadership council of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution; Gladys Hernández of the Center for Research on the World Economy (CIEM); and Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor and president of Pathfinder. The event was chaired by Iraida Aguirrechu of Editora Política, the publishing house of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

Some 75 people—standing room only—crowded into the meeting room, including many young people, both Cuban as well as others studying in Cuba from the Uruguay, El Salvador, Brazil, the United States, Syria, and other countries. Also participating were numerous Cuban revolutionary combatants and others who every year seek out Pathfinder books at the fair.

Shows revolution is possible

The two manifestos of revolutionary struggle in the new book, Waters said, help to "explain what imperialism is. To explain why imperialism can only be successfully faced down by a profoundly popular revolutionary struggle of the workers and peasants, a struggle that breaks the military and economic power of the capitalist class, that establishes a revolutionary government that defends the interests of working people—and that helps lead the toilers toward the socialist transformation of all economic and social relations."

She quoted the Second Declaration of Havana: "What does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible."

Waters explained how the new book was born last November at Venezuela's International Book Fair, the product of wide-ranging political discussions there. It became clear, she said, "that the real history of the Cuban Revolution is not well—or accurately—known by revolutionary-minded workers, farmers, and young people in Venezuela. Many have great hopes and illusions that a violent confrontation with Washington can be avoided because Venezuela has oil and other natural resources that U.S. capitalism needs."

Above all, the new book was published "because it is needed by militant workers and revolutionary-minded youth in the United States," Waters noted. She pointed to the mass working-class mobilizations that swept the country last year demanding the legalization of all undocumented workers.

Such resistance by working people to the capitalist attacks at home, as well as to the war in Iraq and other imperialist assaults abroad, Waters said, are all part of "the world in which the political clarity of the declarations of Havana and the revolutionary course they put forward are sorely needed."

Gladys Hernández, who heads the international finance department of the CIEM, the central economic research institute here, said she was struck by the statement by Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin quoted in the book's preface: "Politics begin where millions of men and women are; where there are not thousands, but millions." She remarked, "That is the power these two declarations talk about."

Hernández praised Pathfinder for "publishing books like this one for more than 40 years. This is a publishing house, born with the October [1917 Russian] Revolution, that has dedicated itself to promote understanding, confidence, and combativity of working people throughout the world."

'Nothing, nothing stopped us'

Mario Rodríguez spoke on behalf of the national leadership of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. A fighter in the urban struggle in Havana against the Batista dictatorship in the 1950s, he later served as Cuba's ambassador to Italy and Mexico.

Rodríguez, one of those present at the 1960 and 1962 assemblies that adopted the two declarations, said the new title "enriches the political arsenal of the new generations of revolutionaries."

When these manifestos were issued, he said, the Cuban people were in the midst of "consolidating their revolutionary power. They confronted a powerful enemy: U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in Latin America, who sought to block even the very first steps we took." These included bringing to justice the hated torturers and thugs of the former Batista tyranny.

As the Cuban Revolution deepened, Rodríguez explained, Washington stepped up its slander campaign and attempts to strangle Cuba. In March 1960, *La Coubre*, a ship carrying Belgian arms that Cuba purchased for its defense, was blown up in the Havana harbor, killing 101 people. Four months later Washington slashed sugar imports from the island.

In face of these attacks, "nothing, nothing stopped us," Rodríguez said. "As the military and civilian repressive institutions were demolished, the people organized into battalions and companies of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, into popular militias," unions, and other mass organizations.

"The First Declaration of Havana was proclaimed in this revolutionary atmosphere," he said. "We proclaimed our sovereign right to establish relations with the People's Republic of China, with the Soviet Union, and we accepted their aid and solidarity in face of imperialist aggression."

In the months after the First Declaration, Cubans mobilized in a campaign that wiped out illiteracy in one year, despite murders of literacy volunteers by counterrevolutionaries. In April 1961 workers and peasants defeated a U.S.-organized invasion at Playa Girón (Bay of Pigs). By then many Cuban revolutionaries were fighting "consciously for socialism," he said.

That was the context in which the Second Declaration was issued in February 1962, when "we proclaimed before the Americas and the world that the duty of every revolutionary is to make the revolution."

That same year, Rodríguez said, the Union of Young Communists was born, steps were taken to build a revolutionary party, and working people mobilized massively to stay the hand of U.S. imperialism's threat of nuclear attack in the October 1962 "missile" crisis.

Like the Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Rodríguez said, the First and Second Declarations of Havana are not "manuals or recipes." They come out of the revolutionary struggle in Cuba for a future in which "the exploitation of man by man must become a thing of the past."

Accessible to new generations

Fernando Rojas, president of the Federation of University Students (FEU) in the city of Havana, was one of the many Cubans and others in the hall who had not been born when the First and Second Declarations were issued. "They need to be available as broadly as possible today," he said. "Pathfinder Press has presented them in a way that makes them more accessible for new generations of militants."

Underscoring his point, many people who stopped by the Pathfinder booth during the book fair commented on the importance of the new book precisely because the two declarations have been out of print here in Cuba for many years.

Above all, Rojas said, *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* shows "the profoundly popular character of the Cuban Revolution," bringing important lessons, especially for those who did not live through the victory of the Cuban Revolution and its early years.

The book's 16 pages of photos, chronology, and glossary of names help to "make it very educational for the youngest readers," he said.

The student leader noted that he had also spoken during last year's book fair at a presentation of the two most recent issues of the Marxist magazine *New International*. He expressed appreciation "that both times Pathfinder insisted on the participation of Cuban youth" on the panel.

José Ramón Fernández, whose remarks concluded the presentation, described some of the events he had taken part in during the period marked by the 1960 and 1962 manifestos. Referring to the *La Coubre* incident, he explained that after the initial deadly explosion, a second blast occurred just as scores of workers and medical personnel had rushed to the scene to pick up the dead and tend to the wounded.

In September 1960 Fernández was heading the school that graduated the first classes of officers of the newly formed Revolutionary National Militias. The militia members, he said, were responsible for defending the large public square that was filled by 1 million

Continued on page 7



Militant photos by Bob Aiken

Above: Panelists at February 13 presentation of Pathfinder's *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* at Cuba's International Book Fair. From left, Fernando Rojas, president of Federation of University Students in Havana; Mario Rodríguez of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution; José Ramón Fernández, vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers; Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor and president of Pathfinder; chairperson Iraida Aguirrechu of Cuban publisher Editora Política; and Gladys Hernández of the Center for Research on the World Economy. Inset, part of audience at meeting. The three women in front row are U.S. students from University of California at Davis.

Donate to cover costs of 'Militant' reporting team to Cuba

A team of *Militant* reporters is in Cuba to cover the International Book Fair taking place in Havana and other Cuban cities, as well as other political developments in the country. The trip's costs exceed $12,000. Contributions from readers in February to help defray such costs add up to $255 as we go to press. Please donate generously to help the *Militant* pay for the trip and continue fielding similar international teams. Earmark checks or money orders "Havana book fair travel fund," and send your contribution to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

N. Korea gov't signs accord to end nuclear production

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

The governments of the United States, China, Russia, Japan, and south Korea reached an agreement February 13 in Beijing with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) under which Pyongyang will begin dismantling its nuclear weapons program in exchange for fuel aid. The deal comes four months after the United Nations Security Council imposed harsh economic sanctions and other punitive measures against the DPRK in the wake of an October 8 nuclear arms test in north Korea.

Not only Washington and Tokyo, but Beijing too, put heavy pressure on the DPRK leading up to the accord. That included a vote last October for the U.S.-sponsored resolution by the UN Security Council and cargo inspections at the Chinese–north Korean border.

Under the agreement, Pyongyang agreed to seal its main nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, to be verified within 60 days by inspectors from the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In exchange, Washington, Beijing, Moscow, and Seoul are supposed to send within the same time period an emergency shipment of 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil, plus an additional 950,000 tons of oil for disabling the plant entirely. Japan's president, Shinzo Abe, said shortly after the agreement was reached that Tokyo will not provide any energy assistance to north Korea.

According to Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, U.S. president George Bush "emphasized the continued need for nations to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1718" following the agreement. That resolution bans the import or export to or from north Korea of material or equipment that could be used to make nuclear arms, ballistic missiles, heavy military equipment, spare parts, or "luxury items." It also calls for inspections of all cargo entering or exiting north Korea, and for freezing the assets and banning the travel of anyone accused of supporting the DPRK's weapons program.

Other sanctions, however, predate the October 2006 resolution. In September 2005, the U.S. Treasury Department accused Banco Delta Asia, a bank based in Macau, China, of counterfeiting for the DPRK and blocked U.S. banks from doing business with it. In response, other foreign banks, especially in Asia, cut off their business with north Korea for fear of similar reprisals. According to Stratfor, a U.S. private intelligence analysis firm, "Both legitimate and illegitimate North Korean bank accounts were suddenly closed, and service to North Korean business and those doing business with North Korea was curtailed."

Under the new agreement, Beijing, which accounts for more than half of Pyongyang's foreign trade, is to lead a group overseeing the closure of the Yongbyon facility and negotiating the return of IAEA inspectors to north Korea. China supplies 90 percent of north Korea's oil, 80 percent of its consumer goods, and 45 percent of its food.

"Beijing's obviously leaning toward Washington pressured North Korea and gave them no choice," Zhu Feng, international studies professor at Beijing University, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "Last year's trading volume between the two countries increased only by 5 percent, the smallest increase in the past 15 years. They can live on what if China's aid disappears?"

The February 13 agreement contains provisions for starting the process of normalizing relations between the United States and north Korea. Washington has refused to sign a peace treaty in the five decades since the DPRK fought U.S. military forces to a stalemate in the Korean War. Washington keeps 30,000 troops on Korean soil and nuclear-armed warships in surrounding waters as part of maintaining the partition of that country it imposed in 1945.

The new accord also calls for the U.S. government to begin removing the DPRK from its list of "terrorist" governments. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters February 15, "I can't tell you exactly how long that process will take."

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reported February 17 that Washington is deploying a dozen F-22 stealth fighter jets to its military base in Okinawa, Japan. A statement from the U.S. military said the move was aimed at showing "the flexibility that U.S. forces have to meet our ongoing commitments and security obligations throughout the Pacific."

Northern Ireland: March marks anniversary of Bloody Sunday massacre by British troops



Militant/Roy Inglee

DERRY, Northern Ireland—Thousands of Irish nationalists and their supporters marched here January 28 to mark the 35th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday massacre (above). In 1972, the British army opened fire on a civil rights demonstration, killing 14 protesters and wounding many others. An ongoing struggle by the families of the victims won a public inquiry into the killings. This year's march, with the slogan "Tell the Truth," demanded the full disclosure of the results of the investigation and justice for the slain.

—ROY INGLEE

Bolivia: 20,000 miners march against tax hike

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

More than 20,000 miners from throughout Bolivia marched into La Paz, the capital city, February 6 to protest a steep rise in the Complementary Mining Tax. The government of President Evo Morales had planned to impose the tax hike on small independent miners' cooperatives.

"We have asked the government not to impose this tax," Andres Villca, leader of the National Federation of Mining Cooperatives, told the media at the time of the action. "Instead, we have asked them to look for a way to control the sale of minerals, which is the fundamental part." Some 55,000 miners belong to these cooperatives nationwide.

In negotiations with miners' representatives the evening before the march, government officials announced that the tax on the cooperatives "would be frozen at current levels until further notice. The proposed tax increase would be directed instead at private mining companies operating in Bolivia," the Associated Press reported.

"The concession failed to deter the thousands of miners already gathered in La Paz's poorer twin city El Alto from marching down the hill into the capital" the next morning, reported AP.

The miners called off their action the evening of February 7, after leaders of the protest met with Morales. The president promised to provide $10 million to the mining cooperatives and place two of their representatives on the six-member governing board of Comibol, the state mining company.

Bolivia is a country rich in mineral wealth, while 64 percent of its 9 million people live below the government's official poverty line. The metals mined there—zinc, silver, gold, and tin—together represent Bolivia's largest export after natural gas.

Most of the mineral deposits in Bolivia are owned by the state, which operates some mines through Comibol. The rest are mined through concessions granted to cooperatives or companies from abroad, such as U.S.-based Coeur d'Alene Mines and the Apex Silver Mines.

First, second declarations of Havana

Continued from page 6

people who gathered to hear, and then ratify, the First Declaration of Havana read by Fidel Castro.

Conviction and clear knowledge

Fernández was also commander of the main column of forces that crushed the imperialist attack at Playa Girón in April 1961. Cuban working people defeated this invasion, Fernández said, "not because of their weapons or technical skills, but because of their conviction and clear knowledge of what they were fighting for."

More than four decades later, he said, millions of Cubans have a deeper political understanding. Nonetheless, "our generations would have accomplished nothing without striving every day to educate the new generations and instill consciousness and a fighting spirit in order to keep defending and advancing the revolution, the struggle for a better and more just world.

"That is why we thank Pathfinder, which always brings books that contribute to this work," Fernández said.

At the end of the meeting, dozens lined up to purchase the book. Among them were three students from the University of California at Davis who are taking courses in Havana. "I didn't know anything about these declarations until I came here," said Ana Ochoa, 22, who was eager to delve into the book.

Seventy-two copies of the book were purchased at the event—52 in Spanish and 20 in English. Another 43 were sold at the Pathfinder stand in the course of the book fair. Nearly 100 more were distributed to numerous libraries, organizations, and individuals.

War on Iraq

Continued from front page

passed a nonbinding resolution criticizing the deployment of more troops and expressing support for the U.S. forces, it says, "are serving . . . honorably in Iraq." The next day, Republicans in the Senate blocked for the second time discussion on a similar nonbinding resolution.

At the same time, the Army is asking for a larger share of the $623 billion war budget request for 2008 to carry out Washington's multi-theater "war on terrorism." The Army's $130 billion request is 16 percent larger than its share of this year's budget proposal. The Army also seeks $83 billion in supplemental spending for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The U.S. military budget has more than doubled from $308 billion in 2001.

The *Kuwait News Agency* said 14 military vehicles surrounded Sadr's office in the al-Shula area west of Baghdad today and that soldiers confiscated documents. Sadr's Mahdi Army militia has been a special target of the U.S. escalation. Sadr's aides have denied rumors that he has fled to Iran in fear for his safety.

Washington has accused Iran of supplying Shiite militias with lethal weapons. Some 100 Austrian-made 50-caliber sniper rifles seized in raids across Baghdad have been traced to a purchase for the Iranian National Police, according a February 14 report by Strategic Forecasting, a private U.S. intelligence outfit (see also front-page article on Iran).

During the predawn attack by a Sunni-led militia on a U.S. outpost in the town of Tarmiya, two U.S. soldiers were killed and 17 wounded. The town, north of Baghdad, has been hotly contested by U.S. troops and Sunni militias. In addi-

Continued on page 8

Capitalism and slavery: a Marxist appraisal

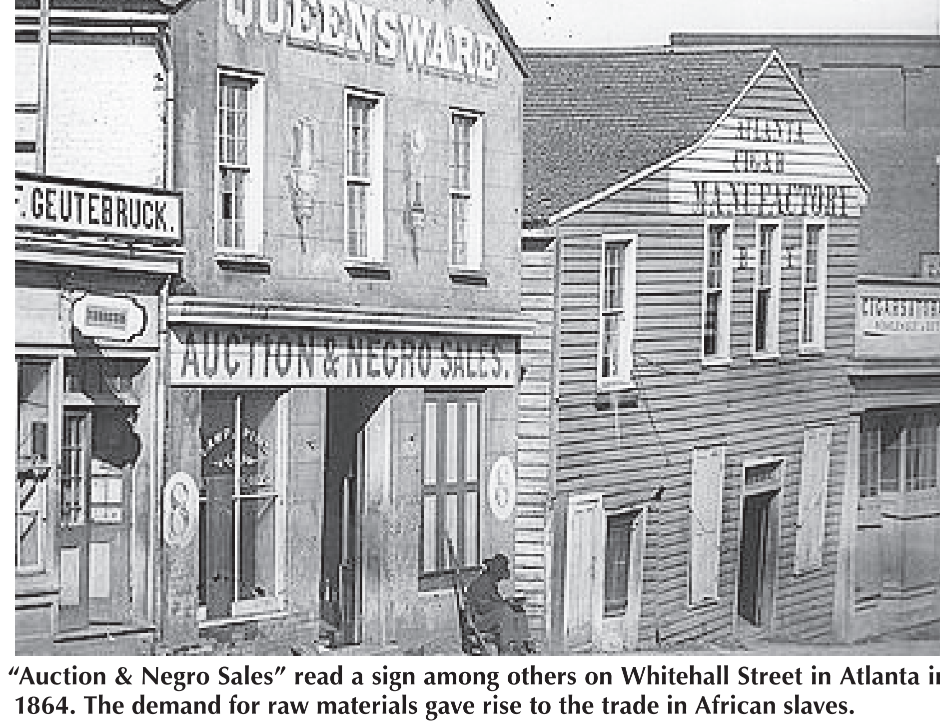
Below is an excerpt from Understanding History, *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March. The articles in this collection cover a broad range of topics, from an interpretation of the totality of history to the identity of social forces capable of redirecting its course. All of them apply the Marxist method of analysis to some of the most perplexing problems of the historical process. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY GEORGE NOVACK

A primitive power can fasten itself upon a higher one, gain renewed vitality, and even appear for a time superior to its host. But the less developed power leads an essentially parasitic existence and cannot indefinitely sustain itself at the expense of the higher. It lack suitable soil and atmosphere for its growth while the more developed institutions are not only inherently superior but can count upon favorable environment for expansion.

The development of chattel slavery in North America provides an excellent illustration of this dialectic. From the world-historical standpoint, slavery on this continent was an anachronism from its birth. As a mode of production, it belonged to the infancy of class society; it had already virtually vanished from Western Europe. Yet the very demands of Western Europe for staple raw materials, such as sugar, indigo, and tobacco, combined with the scarcity of labor for large-scale agricultural operations, implanted slavery in North America. Colonial slavery grew up as a branch of commercial capitalism. Thus, a mode of production and a form of property that had long passed away emerged afresh from the demands of a higher economic system and became part of it.



"Auction & Negro Sales" read a sign among others on Whitehall Street in Atlanta in 1864. The demand for raw materials gave rise to the trade in African slaves.

This contradiction became accentuated when the rise of capitalist factory industry in England and the United States lifted the cotton-producing states of the deep South to top place in American economic and political life. For decades, the two opposing systems functioned as a team. They then split apart at the time of the American Civil War. The capitalist system, which at one stage of its development fostered slavery's growth, at another stage created a new combination of forces that overthrew it. . . .

[C]hattel slavery and capitalism turned out to be neither permanent nor indissoluble; it was conditional, temporary, relative. . . . If a society marches forward, the advantage, in the long run, goes to the superior structure, which thrives at the expense of the inferior features. . . .

The question now posed is whether the present . . . capitalist rulers of the USA can now carry through to fulfillment a national task that it failed to complete in its revolutionary heyday. . . .

It is our opinion, however, that only the joint struggle of the Blacks and the working masses, against the capitalist rulers will be able to carry through the struggle against the hangovers of slavery. In this way the socialist revolution, combining the struggles of the oppressed nationalities with the anticapitalist movement for workers' power, will complete what the bourgeois-democratic revolution failed to realize.

U.S. troops intensify attacks on militias in Iraq

Continued from page 7

tion, Sunni militias carried out attacks the same day in Kirkuk, Ramadi, Tikrit, and Fallujah—all Sunni strongholds.

These attacks are part of growing signs that Sunni-led militias are continuing offensive operations while Shiite militias are laying low and moving many of their leaders to the south.

In Washington, following the vote on the nonbinding resolution on Iraq, Rep. John Murtha asserted that the "real vote" against the troop escalation would come in a proposal he will make in the defense appropriations subcommittee, which he chairs. His measure would require military units to have one year off before redeployment to Iraq, prohibit extension of tours beyond 12 months, and require units to train with all their equipment before being deployed. It contains no proposal to cut or reduce troop levels or spending for the war.

This move by the Democrats has drawn sharp reaction from the liberal and conservative media. A February 17 *New York Times* editorial welcomed the House vote on the nonbinding resolution, but said Murtha's proposals, which are backed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, are "clever maneuvers" that "won't help contain the war." The *Times* advised instead linking further support for the war to Iraqi government progress in disarming militias, adopting a formula to share oil revenues, and ending employment discrimination against Sunnis.

The conservative *Investor's Business Daily* described the House vote as doing the bidding of terrorists. "We'd have to go back to Benedict Arnold to find Americans as eager as Murtha & Co. to see an American defeat on the battlefield," the daily said in an editorial in its February 20 issue.

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SWP/YS STATEMENT

Normalize relations with Korea!

The following are greetings sent February 15 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Ben O'Shaughnessy, on behalf of the Young Socialists, to the Workers Party of Korea.

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send revolutionary greetings on the occasion of your February 16 national holiday. We reaffirm our commitment here in the United States to stand alongside working people and youth on both sides of the 38th parallel for a unified Korea free of Washington's troops and weapons. We campaign in solidarity with the Korean people and others the world over to demand an immediate end—with no conditions—to all threats and sanctions by Washington, Tokyo, and their allies against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We condemn the imperialists' cynical manipulation of needed food and fuel as diplomatic bargaining chips.

To this day, the U.S. government refuses to end the state of war against the DPRK it has kept in place since 1953—more than half a century!—when Washington was forced to accept the armistice which registered the defeat of its murderous efforts to dominate the entire Korean peninsula. The U.S. rulers maintain some 30,000 troops on Korean soil as well as nuclear-armed warships and submarines in the surrounding waters. Washington has not only blocked U.S. banks from doing business with the DPRK's foreign banking partners, but has successfully pressured other governments, especially those in Asia, to follow suit. Under the so-called Proliferation Security Initiative, Washington, Paris, Tokyo, and their allies have declared their "right" to carry out acts of piracy against north Korean ships, intercepting and boarding those they accuse of carrying "suspect" cargo. And the U.S. government is increasing military cooperation with Tokyo on "anti-missile systems" and moving to increase its "interoperability" with imperialist armed forces in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and across Europe.

The United States government, with backing from its "coalition of the willing," is carrying out the largest escalation of the war in Iraq since the 2003 invasion. In addition to deploying tens of thousands more troops in Iraq, the imperialist powers are sending thousands more troops to Afghanistan, building up their joint naval armada of aircraft carriers and other warships in the Arab-Persian Gulf, raining bombs on Somalia, intervening militarily in the Philippines, and bolstering their military forces in other theaters of their "global war on terrorism." As Washington, Tokyo, Canberra, London, Paris, Ottawa, and their brethren jointly conduct wars—simultaneously stepping up their own rivalry over shares of world resources and markets—they destabilize the global order the imperialist victors themselves imposed coming out of World War II. And they incite internecine bloodletting and the fragmentation of nations and peoples the world over.

Washington's wars abroad are of a piece with their war against the rights and the living and job conditions of working people at home. But the employers' unceasing pressure on wages, job safety, social security, and trade-union rights is generating consequences the bipartisan bandits never foresaw. As the working class resists these assaults, the political stakes are posed more sharply. For example, the response of working people throughout the upper Midwest to large-scale immigration raids at meatpacking plants late last year—refusing to be cowed, looking for ways to fight back, turning for defense to the unions and to coworkers—bolsters the confidence and prospects for increasing unity in action of the working class and its allies in mutual defense.

In this process, the struggles of working people in the United States are strengthened by the Korean working people's unflinching fight to reunify your country some five decades after its forcible partition by Washington. On the occasion of your national holiday, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists reiterate our demand for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops and conventional and nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula and surrounding waters. We support the DPRK's call for the denuclearization of Korea. We demand that Washington normalize relations and unfreeze north Korean assets abroad. Now! No strings attached!

And we add our voices to working people the world over in declaring: Korea will be one!

LETTERS

From behind prison walls

As a female prisoner I write this letter to raise awareness of this country's incarcerated men and women and of the human and civil rights abuses committed against them. In any capitalist country justice cannot be blind. The "justice" meted out to the wealthy is vastly different to that received by the working class poor, whose numbers comprise the majority of our inmate population.

Minor and nonviolent offenders join the ranks of the forgotten, providing a cheap and endless labor supply for the private prison industry. Within the Mississippi Department of Corrections, workers maintain a 40–80 hour workweek and are paid a maximum of $300 per month. Some earn as little as $35 per month. Capitalist pariahs no longer have to travel to the third world for a cheap source of labor. We are right here in our own state and federal correctional facilities, housed in unbearable conditions, working as slave labor with no voice to better our existence.

Medical care is either ineffective or nonexistent. Staph infections are rampant and often go untreated. One woman begged for treatment when a sore on her upper thigh became infected. She received no care until slipping into a coma for two weeks, after the infection became systemic. This occurred near the time of her release, so after a lengthy in-hospital recovery she was returned to the prison and her confinement was extended in an amount equal to the length of her hospital stay.

In addition to medical abuse and neglect, inmates are routinely subjected to violence and threats of violence. One common practice is for inmates to be awakened during the night and marched in their under clothes to an outside concrete yard. There they are ordered to lie on their bellies with head and shoulders raised off the ground, arms and legs crossed behind them. They are required to maintain this position for lengthy periods of time.

This open letter is a cry for help. Conditions here and in many of the U.S. state and federal prisons are an atrocity. For more information, please contact the National Association for Equal Justice, www.2008EqualJusticeMarch.org.

A prisoner
Pearl, Mississippi

Interesting web site

I would just like to say I stumbled upon your web site and will be checking up on it. It does interest me and when I graduate from college, your presence will be a great asset. Until then keep up the work.

H.S.
Charlotte, North Carolina

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

The Prisoners Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the *Militant* and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Prowar Congress

AS I SEE IT

BY PAUL PEDERSON

On February 16, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a symbolic resolution opposing the deployment of 21,500 additional troops to Iraq by the White House. A similar measure did not make it onto the Senate floor the next day, after the bill's sponsors failed to get enough votes to force a debate on it.

For weeks, the *People's Weekly World (PWW)*, the newspaper reflecting the views of the Communist Party USA, presented the efforts in Congress to pass such resolutions—which have no impact on Washington's imperialist war—as a watershed moment in ending the U.S.-led bloodbath in Iraq.

"[W]hile a nonbinding expression of the Senate's opinion," the paper said in an editorial in its February 3–9 issue, the resolution "represents a historic first step on the road to ending the Iraq war, bringing the troops home and shifting resources to human needs."

If the *PWW* was the only newspaper you read you might get the impression that the Democratic Party's victory in the November congressional elections registered a great advance for working people.

The paper's first postelection issue featured a center spread with a triumphal photo display of California Democrat Nancy Pelosi, then incoming House Speaker, and called the election result "a tidal wave against the Republican right" that "swept every region of the country."

Ever since, a string of gushing *PWW* articles have presented Democratic politicians as great friends of the working class and those opposed to war. Even a few Republicans, like Sen. Charles Hagel, who cosponsored the Senate resolution criticizing the White House on Iraq, earned a comradely tone in the *World*.

The Communist Party is not the only group feeding the illusion that the Democratic victory three months ago ushered in an "antiwar" Congress. A wide assortment of middle-class radicals, liberals, and pacifists champion this false view.

But the Democrats' actions speak louder than their words.

On January 26 the Senate swiftly and unanimously confirmed Gen. George Petraeus—one of the key advocates of the escalation of the war—as the new top U.S. commander in Iraq. And neither the House nor the Senate has taken any action to cut funding for the war. In fact, the Senate only had to postpone confirming Petraeus to slow down the deployment of more troops to Iraq. The senators did the opposite.

The Democratic Party today remains just as much a defender of Washington's multi-theater "war on terrorism"—from Afghanistan, to Iraq, the Philippines, and Somalia—as the Republicans. There is no peace party in Congress.

In fact, the bloodiest wars of the 20th century involving the United States—the two world wars and the wars on Korea and Vietnam—were largely overseen by Democratic administrations. In the 1990s, the administration of William Clinton, a Democrat, led the bombing of Yugoslavia and occupations of Bosnia and Kosova in the 1990s.

Democratic politicians have often been the strongest proponents of sending more troops to Iraq. For example, during his 2004 presidential bid Sen. John Kerry demanded 40,000 more soldiers.

"We have to consider the need for additional troops to be in Iraq," Rep. Silvestre Reyes, a Texas Democrat and chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said last December. "I would say 20,000 to 30,000."

In January, Hillary Clinton, the leading candidate for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, pressed for sending more U.S. troops to Afghanistan. The U.S.-led invasion and occupation of that country is considered a "good war" by the liberals.

"I don't oppose all wars," Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama told the press in 2002. "What I'm opposed to is a dumb war."

"I have always thought we did the right thing in Afghanistan," Obama said in a debate with his opponent, Republican Alan Keyes, during the 2004 senatorial race in Illinois.

Obama said that because of the war in Iraq, "I think the Iranians at this stage are fairly confident that it's going to be difficult for us to mount any significant military strike there, but I would reserve all options. . . . [W]e have to have all military options reserved in order to deal with these potential nuclear threats."

Those who oppose imperialist war will not find any allies in either of the twin parties that rule in the United States. Instead of illusions that someone in Congress will save the day, we need to look to the working class, whose interests are diametrically opposed to the wealthy rulers and their representatives in the House and Senate, and organize actions to demand: "Not one penny or person for Washington's wars!" and "Bring the troops home from Iraq, Afghanistan, and all the other theaters of the U.S. rulers' 'war on terror'—now!"